**MAGIC TREEHOUSE UNIT GUIDE**

**Part 4: Extension Activities Linked to Big Ideas**

**Your Name:**

For this final part of your unit, you will think about the whole story, Vacation Under the Volcano and an important “big idea” that extends beyond the book. You will work with a partner to:

1. Develop a central question and curate a set of five related resources, and
2. Create a unit extension map and two activities (one each person).

**4A. Extending or “problematizing” the text ideas to a central question**

1. Choose either a main idea or big idea as your frame that connects the ideas from Vacation Under the Volcano to bigger ideas in the real world. You might use the “factual” parts of the story to get you thinking.
2. Create a central question you would like students to address in some extension activities after they finish reading the story. For example, in the *Oil Spill* text we read in class, a big idea is the impact that humans have on the environment. My central question might be, “How do humans impact the planet and the creatures that live on the planet?” If I chose to go with the main idea of an oil spill, I might ask, “What damage does an oil spill cause and what can we do to help?”
3. Think of other curriculum areas to which you can connect that central question/idea in meaningful ways.
4. **Unit resources.** Go online and find kid-friendly resources for students based on your central question. You should have **at least five resources** (books/websites). If you cannot find resources, that means you won’t be able to support students’ learning of this central question. You might need to change your question based on resources.
5. Create a map using *Popplet (*[*https://popplet.com/*](https://popplet.com/)*), Kidspiration*, or some other mind map app, that connects your book via the central question to other areas of the curriculum in meaningful ways. You must include **at least five different areas of the curriculum, and at least two ideas or questions within each area**. Feel free to add images as well if you’d like to make your mind map more interesting, but you don’t need to. Make sure the ideas connect within and across areas—that they all go together to help students investigate the central question.

**4B. Unit Extension Activities**

1. Once you have completed your map, choose two ideas within your map to elaborate upon. You can choose two from the same curriculum area (e.g. social studies), or two from different curriculum areas (e.g. one from social studies and one from language arts).
   1. If you are working with a partner, you can each create one of the activities and indicate your name next to the activity you created. Be sure to include BOTH activities in your final Blendspace unit, which each of you will create individually.
2. Go online and find support for your two chosen activities. For example, if I were going to teach students about sundials to show how Ancient Romans told time, I might also want to have them make and experience using their own sundials. I might have for support the following sites: <https://www.nwf.org/kids/family-fun/crafts/sundial.aspx> or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jtJkHlKBE1Q>
3. Write a brief description of the activity you will do. Use the following template to structure your activity description:

**MTH #13: Vacation Under the Volcano**

**Part 4B. Unit Extension Activities**

**Your Name/Your Partner’s Name**

**Activity #1:** What is it?

* *Rationale*: What it its purpose? Why did you choose this activity?
* *Description*: What will students do and how will this activity help them learn/answer your central question?
* *Common Core Standards:* Which Grade 3 reading/writing standards would this activity address?
* *Online Support:* What online resources would you use to support your lesson?

**Activity #2:** What is it?

* *Rationale*: What it its purpose? Why did you choose this activity?
* *Description*: What will students do and how will this activity help them learn/answer your central question?
* *Common Core Standards:* Which Grade 3 reading/writing standards would this activity address?
* *Online Support:* What online resources would you use to support your lesson?

If you worked with a partner, please include the author’s name next to each activity. Then, write a short description of how each of contributed to this final part of the Magic Treehouse Unit Guide.

**Submitting your work**

You will create a Blendspace page to keep all of your work in one place. You can create a new Blendspace at this link: <https://www.tes.com/lessons>

Refer to the screencast tutorial created by Dr. Deeney on our wiki for directions on how to do this. <http://screencast-o-matic.com/watch/cD6rcAjpHS>

Your Blendspace will include, in this order:

* Your response to Part 1: MTH Book Launch
* Response to Part 2: During Reading Questions
* Response to Part 3: Four Small Group Activities
* Part 4A Unit Resources (each one dragged into its own blendspace box)
* Part 4A Unit map (saved as a pdf file or linked to the online source)
* Part 4B Extension Activities

After you create your Blendspace, copy/paste the link into the Google Docs chart on the wiki so others can access your activities.